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5

6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

8
9 **MANUEL A. ALFARO,**
Plaintiff,
10

11 vs.

12 **MACY’S, INC., and DEPARTMENT**
13 **STORES NATIONAL BANK, a**
14 **corporation.**
15 **Defendant.**
16

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

1. TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

2. Cal Civ. Code § 1788

(Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)

17 **COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

18 Plaintiff, Manuel A. Alfaro (Plaintiff), through his attorneys, alleges the
19 following against Defendants, Macy’s, Inc. (Macy’s) and Department Stores
20 National Bank, a corporation. (Department Stores National Bank), (Defendants):
21

INTRODUCTION

- 22 1. Count I of Plaintiff’s Complaint is based upon the Telephone Consumer
23 Protection Act (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227. The TCPA is a federal statute
24 that broadly regulates the use of automated telephone equipment. Among
25 other things, the TCPA prohibits certain unsolicited marketing calls,

1 restricts the use of automatic dialers or prerecorded messages, and delegates
2 rulemaking authority to the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”).

- 3 2. Count II of Plaintiff’s Complaint is based upon Rosenthal Fair Debt
4 Collection Practices Act (“RFDCPA”), CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788, which
5 prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair
6 practices in connection with the collection of consumer debts.

7 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 8 3. Plaintiff resides in the State of California, and therefore, personal
9 jurisdiction is established.
- 10 4. Jurisdiction of the court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. §
11 227.
- 12 5. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(2) in that a substantial part
13 of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District.

14
15 **PARTIES**

- 16 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Inglewood, County of Los Angeles,
17 California.
- 18 7. Plaintiff is a debtor as defined by *Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.2(h)*.
- 19 8. Macy’s is a corporation who is a debt collector as that term is defined by
20 *Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.2(c)*, and sought to collect a consumer debt from
21 Plaintiff.
- 22 9. Macy’s is a debt collector with its principal place of business located at 7
23 West Seventh Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.
- 24
25

1 10. Department Stores National Bank is a Defendant who is a debt collector as
2 that term is defined by *Cal. Civ. Code §1788.2(c)*, and sought to collect a
3 consumer debt from Plaintiff.

4 11. Department Stores National Bank, is a corporation with its principal place
5 of business located at 701 East 60th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

6 12. Defendants acted through their agents, employees, officers, members,
7 directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees,
8 representatives, and insurers.

9
10 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11 13. Plaintiff filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy protection on September 29, 2015;
12 Case number 2:15-bk-24979-RN and listed Macy's and Department Stores
13 National Bank (aka DNSB) as creditors on his Bankruptcy Petition &
14 Schedules. Plaintiff bankruptcy was discharged on January 11, 2016.

15 14. Upon information and belief, on or around December 7, 2015, Defendants
16 began placing collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone number (323)
17 712-3605, in an attempt to collect the alleged debt.

18 15. The calls came from (727) 556-7300, (513) 573-8038, (513) 754-9852 and
19 (727) 556-5772; upon information and belief these numbers are owned or
20 operated by Defendants.

21 16. On or around December 10, 2015, at 9:14 a.m., Plaintiff answered a
22 collection call from one of the Defendants, from telephone number (727)
23 556-5772. Plaintiff heard a pause before the collection agent began to
24 speak, indicating the use of an automated telephone dialing system.

25 17. Defendant informed Plaintiff that it was attempting to collect a debt.

1 18. Plaintiff instructed Defendant not to contact him any further.

2 19. Defendants called Plaintiff again the following day and continued to call him
3 almost every day for the next several weeks.

4 20. Defendants continued to send Plaintiff bills/collection statements after the
5 date of the filing for Bankruptcy protection.

6 21. Plaintiff received a bill/collection statement dated October 30, 2015 with
7 request for payment due November 26, 201 and a second (2nd) statement
8 dated November 29, 2015 with request for payment due on December 26,
9 2015.

10 22. Defendants contacted Plaintiff's cellular phone without consent and/or after
11 Plaintiff revoked consent, approximately seventy (70) times with complete
12 disregard to Plaintiff's privacy or right to not be continuously harassed.

13 23. As a result of Defendants conduct, Plaintiff has sustained actual damages
14 including but not limited to, emotional and mental pain and anguish.

15
16 **COUNT I**
17 **(Violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227)**

18 24. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
19 Complaint as though fully stated herein.

20 25. Defendant violated the TCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are not
21 limited to the following:

22 (a) Within four years prior to the filing of this action, on multiple
23 occasions, Defendant violated TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(iii) which
24 states in pertinent part, "It shall be unlawful for any person within the
25 United States . . . to make any call (other than a call made for
emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called

1 party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or
 2 prerecorded voice — to any telephone number assigned to a . . . cellular
 3 telephone service . . . or any service for which the called party is charged
 4 for the call.

5 (b) Within four years prior to the filing of this action, on multiple
 6 occasions, Defendant willfully and/or knowingly contacted Plaintiff at
 7 Plaintiff's cellular telephone using an artificial prerecorded voice or an
 8 automatic telephone dialing system and as such, Defendant knowing
 and/or willfully violated the TCPA.

9 26. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227, Plaintiff is entitled
 10 to an award of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in statutory damages, for each
 11 and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B). If the Court finds
 12 that Defendant knowingly and/or willfully violated the TCPA, Plaintiff is
 13 entitled to an award of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), for
 14 each and every violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C.
 § 227(b)(3)(C).

16 **COUNT II**

17 **(Violation of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, CAL. CIV.** 18 **CODE § 1788)**

19
 20 27. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference all of the above paragraphs of this
 21 complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.

22 Defendant violated the RFDCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are
 23 not limited to, the following:

24 (a) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.11(d) by causing a
 25 telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously to annoy the person called; and

1 (b) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.11(e) by communicating,
2 by telephone or in person, with the debtor with such frequency as to be
3 unreasonable and to constitute an harassment to the debtor under the
4 circumstances; and

5 (c) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.17 by collecting or
6 attempting to collect a consumer debt without complying with the provisions
7 of Sections 1692b to 1692j, inclusive, of . . . Title 15 of the United States
8 Code (Fair Debt Collection Practices Act).

9 (i) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.17 by violating 15
10 U.S.C. § 1692d by engaging in conduct, the natural consequence of which is
11 to harass, oppress or abuse any person in connection with the collection of
12 the alleged debt; and

13 (ii) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.17 by violating 15
14 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) by causing Plaintiff's phone to ring or engaging Plaintiff
15 in telephone conversations repeatedly; and

16 (iii) Defendant violated CAL. CIV. CODE § 1788.17 by violating 15
17 U.S.C. § 1692f by using unfair or unconscionable means in connection with
18 the collection of an alleged debt.

19 28. Defendant's acts, as described above, were done intentionally with the
20 purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.

21 29. As a result of the foregoing violations of the RFDCPA, Defendant is liable
22 to Plaintiff for declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the
23 RFDCPA, actual damages, statutory damages, and attorneys' fees and costs.

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, respectfully requests judgment be entered against
25 Defendants, Macy's and Department Stores National Bank, for the following:

A. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to the Rosenthal Fair Debt
Collection Practices Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1788.30(b), 47 U.S.C
§227(b)(3)(B);

1 B. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the Rosenthal Fair
2 Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal. Civ Code § 1788.30(c), and
3 C. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.
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5

6
7 Dated: April 18, 2016

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By: /s/ Stuart Price

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